

fund-raising initiatives. Affiliations include Longview Partnership, Laubach Literacy Action, The Nonprofit Coalition and Literacy Volunteers of America.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of illiteracy to individuals, to their families and to society is enormous. Literacy programs, such as those sponsored by the East Texas Literacy Council, are vital in our efforts to help individuals acquire the skills they need to be productive citizens and to be able to support themselves and their families. It is a privilege to pay tribute today to this exemplary literacy organization in the Fourth District of Texas—the East Texas Literacy Council—and to those dedicated staff members and volunteers whose hard work has helped make this organization such a success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 16, 2000, during debate of H.R. 2372, the Property Takings legislation, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior family commitment. Unfortunately, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 53, 54, and 55. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 53, the Boehlert substitute, "no" on rollcall vote 54, the Motion to Recommit, and "yes" on final passage of the bill—rollcall vote 55.

HONORING ZETA BETA TAU FRATERNITY AND ROGER WILLIAMS DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I applaud Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, my brotherhood, for celebrating the life of Roger Williams, founder of the colony of Rhode Island, and a strong supporter of religious and political liberty.

In 1631, clergyman Roger Williams, left England, a land where he was dubbed a non-conformist and was persecuted for his religious beliefs, and came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in America. Along with him came his wife and great wind of change, idealism and freedom. He would be called a troublemaker, because he believed that the royal charter did not justify taking land that belonged to the Native Americans and declared that people should not be punished for religious differences. In 1664, he published his most famous work, "The Bloudy Tenent of Persecution", which upheld his argument for the separation of church and state. In 1657, as president of the Rhode Island colony, he fought to provide refuge for Quakers who had been banished from other colonies, even though he disagreed with their religious teachings.

Today, as a member of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, I join my brotherhood in remembering

and recognizing Roger Williams as an early champion of democracy and religious freedom. As we struggle against religious intolerance throughout our world, we should look to men, such as Roger Williams, who stood for freedom, in a world of persecution.

I am proud to be a member of the distinguished brotherhood of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, a organization of young men who are dedicating this day to the principles of tolerance, understanding, and brotherly love, by remembering Roger Williams.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my district on Tuesday, March 21, 2000, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 56 and 57. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 56 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Con. Res. 288, Recognizing the importance of families and children in the United States and expressing support for the goals and ideas of National Family Day; and rollcall vote 57 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Res. 182, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the National Park Service should take full advantage of support services offered by the Department of Defense.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 56 and 57.

HONORING 20TH CENTURY WOMEN

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of extraordinary women of the 20th Century. Throughout our history women artists such as Missouri author, Laura Ingalls Wilder, have brought about needed social change in our State and Nation. Today, I honor a recording artist From Kennett, Missouri who has maintained strong ties to our State. Sheryl Crow joins a list of Missouri women who have contributed to an extraordinary century of women.

Ms. Crow's parents were big band musicians who encouraged her musical skills at an early age. She began playing the piano around the age of six and composed her first song at age 13. In the 1990's, Sheryl Crow forcefully expressed her thoughts and emotions on social causes such as youth violence, addressed in her platinum album lyrics, "Watch out sister, Watch out brother/Watch our children as they kill each other/With a gun they brought at the Wal-Mart discount stores" in her ongoing battle with the discount giant over guns and children. In retribution, Wal-Mart refused to sell her award winning records. A Florida State Supreme Court eventually ruled against Wal-Mart for illegally selling ammunition to minors who used the bullets to kill a Pensacola man.

Ms. Crow's music encompasses her personal experience and her passionately held beliefs to electrify audiences. Inspired by the likes of Walt Whitman and Bob Dylan. Sheryl Crow has influenced a generation of women to artistry and activism. Her ability to span generations and musical tastes has led Ms. Crow to be one of the most sought after musicians of our time. Her reputation for taking risks is demonstrated by her professional and personal courage to make mistakes and to achieve success. Her song, "My Favorite Mistake," reminds us that we must all have the courage to take risks in order to create something worthwhile.

In 1994 Sheryl Crow won Gammy Awards for Best New Artist, Record of the Year, and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for her hit "All I Wanna Do." Two years later, the singer/songwriter won Grammys for Best Rock Album and Best Female Rock Vocal Performance for the song, "If It Makes You Happy." Her 1998 double platinum album, "The Globe Sessions" was named Best Rock Album at the 1999 Grammy Awards. Her latest effort, "Sweet Child O' Mine," received the 2000 Grammy for Best Female Rock Vocal Performance. Her peers in the music industry and her many dedicated fans have recognized Ms. Crow as a gifted musician and a woman empowered to inspire others.

Sheryl Crow cares passionately about eliminating the use of land mines, as demonstrated by her recent efforts in Southeast Asia on behalf of the victims of such weapons of war. The artist has journeyed to Capitol Hill in support of debt relief for the world's most impoverished nations. Ms. Crow has been an outspoken advocate of women's rights and has highlighted her concerns about youth violence issues in songs such as "Love is a Good Thing." I share her belief that one of the most effective ways of reducing youth violence in our culture is to support arts education in schools.

Ms. Crow exemplifies the positive value of artistic expression. I salute Sheryl Crow for being an inspiration as an artist and advocate. Her efforts to make the world a better place will continue to contribute to a better future in the new millennium. "For all you wanna do," Sheryl Crow, Missouri women thank you for your artistry, advocacy, your commitment to the Campaign for a Landmine Free World and a better life for our children.

COMMENDING THE WISCONSIN HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Wisconsin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which I'm proud to say is located in my district, for the outstanding job it has done to help Milwaukee's Hispanic community thrive. I would like to especially note the work of one of its leaders, Maria Monreal-Cameron, President of the Chamber. Her ceaseless energy and countless efforts on behalf of the Hispanic

community in Milwaukee serve as a model to all those concerned with the improvement of civil life. The following is an article extolling Ms. Monreal-Cameron's efforts from the March 16th issue of *The Wall Street Journal* that I would like to submit for inclusion in the RECORD.

[From the *Wall Street Journal*, Mar. 16, 2000]
IN THE LAND OF BRATWURST, A NEW HISPANIC BOOM

IN A BIG POPULATION SHIFT, LATINO IMMIGRANTS FLOCK TO TOWNS IN THE MIDWEST
(By Paulette Thomas)

Milwaukee—Better known for beer and bratwurst, this city has dozens of Mexican restaurants and watering holes stretching block after block of low-slung buildings on the Hispanic south side.

Groceries distribute not one but three local Hispanic newspapers. A Yellow Pages for Hispanic businesses runs to 300 pages. Last year, Hispanic magazine rated Milwaukee the seventh-best city in America for Hispanics.

Milwaukee?

Hispanic immigrants and their descendants are fanning out and settling into Midwestern towns, far from the border regions and metropolitan centers more renowned as Latino hubs. "Vision Latina" began publishing last year for Nebraska Hispanics. Kansas City, Mo., and Cleveland have thriving Hispanic communities.

While about 60% of the U.S. Hispanic population, 18 million people, live in 10 major metropolitan areas, about 13 million Hispanics reside in second-tier cities across the U.S. Though little noticed, "that dispersal is one of the big stories of the 1990s," says Michael Fix, director of immigration studies for the Urban Institute, a Washington, D.C., think tank.

Many immigrants find second-tier cities more hospitable to newcomers than bigger cities, with affordable homes, decent public schools and job opportunities, particularly in Midwestern meatpacking plants, factories and foundries.

Once a family gets a foothold, others follow. That migration, dating back to the 1930s, has created a pool of Hispanics that represents about 4% of the Milwaukee population, leaving a deep imprint on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Across Wisconsin, the Hispanic population has tripled since 1980, to 185,000. "Milwaukee feels like home," says Gianfranco Tessaro, who moved from Peru to Milwaukee in 1981, following a brother, who met him at the airport with a pair of thick-soled shoes for the snow. Like most of the new Hispanic arrivals, Mr. Tessaro quickly found a low-skilled job. He started in a sheet-metal factory, cleaning and doing odd jobs. Since then, he married a Midwesterner, raised two sons, and now owns his own business, Inspired Artisans Ltd., which sells liturgical art and renovates churches.

Isolation of the first Hispanic Midwesterners has turned into community: "When I grew up in Boulder, there was one other Hispanic family," says Loren Aragon, who is 33. Today, Mr. Aragon lives in Milwaukee and works for his brother's thriving firm, Site Temporaries Inc., which places temporary workers, nearly all Puerto Rican immigrants, in light industrial jobs. About 600 a week pile into buses, along with translators on staff, who help pave the way. He supplies companies with lists of Spanish translations for words such as "breakroom" or "restroom," if they like.

With Wisconsin unemployment hovering around 3%, the foundries and factories of Milwaukee—home of Harley-Davidson Inc., Quad Graphics and a large J.C. Penney Co. distribution center—have given an especially warm welcome to the Hispanic workers. When Allen Edmonds Shoe Corp. couldn't fill jobs at its factory in northern Ozaukee County, it moved some of its operations to a facility on the south side of Milwaukee. Now, nearly all of its employees there are Hispanic, and most walk to their jobs. Strolling out after Friday's regular short shift, manager Sue Samson describes turnover at the facility in one word: "None."

A wariness of government has kept many Hispanics underground and without political voice. Hispanic leaders believe the census bureau has woefully undercounted the number of Hispanics in Milwaukee. Only 7% of the registered Hispanics voted in the past general election. Milwaukee has elected only two Hispanics to public office, Circuit Judge Elsa Lamelas and State Rep. Pedro Colon. Without a unified voice, Mr. Colon warned in a recent speech, "The south side will continue to decay."

Often a community is galvanized by a single energetic force, and in Milwaukee's Hispanic quarters it is 54-year-old Maria Monreal-Cameron. Presiding from a cluttered office in an incubator of mostly Hispanic businesses, a floor below Allen Edmonds, she is nominally the president of the Wisconsin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, but her mission is to advance Hispanic people through every means she knows.

As a child in Wisconsin, Ms. Monreal-Cameron often woke up to find strangers huddled under blankets on her living room floor. They were families from Mexico and Puerto Rico, journeying for work in the factories of Milwaukee. Her parents, Mexican immigrants themselves, never turned away the new arrivals.

As an adult, she began joining local community boards when her youngest of six children was grown. She now is active on 18, often the first Hispanic representative.

She plays matchmaker with banks and businesses, acts as informal adviser to local entrepreneurs, and presses her political contacts for improvements on the south side. She successfully took on the political establishment in a fight to upgrade the Sixth Street Viaduct, a ratty-looking 99-year-old bridge over the channel and industrial section that separates the Hispanic south side from Milwaukee's downtown. "It's the gateway to our community," she says.

She also helped secure government grants for the incubator, the Milwaukee Enterprise Center, with 25 small firms, mostly Hispanic. Their numbers include people like Roberto Fuentez, a former migrant worker who now has a small machine tooling shop. "This is something that doesn't take a lot of education, but you need some training," he says, sauntering past his machines.

Adalberto Olivares, a local Vietnam veteran, wanted to start a trucking business on a small loan from a former employer. "Al was leasing one truck," she says. "I said, 'You know what? Let's get going here, let's make it happen.'" She persuaded him to move his business into the incubator, and helped him get financing. He now has a fleet of 23 trucks, 12 of which are owner-operated.

Ms. Monreal-Cameron rolls her eyes at the inevitable stereotyping she encounters. A human-resources person from a local hotel called Ms. Monreal-Cameron blurting, "I need housemaids." Ms. Monreal-Cameron responded that the chamber isn't a placement

service, but she knew several executives who would be fine human-resource candidates. "She hung up on me," Ms. Monreal-Cameron says.

THE NEW MELTING POT—RANKED BY PERCENTAGE INCREASE OF IMMIGRANTS FROM 1995 TO 1999¹

State	Growth
1. North Carolina	73
2. Nevada	60
3. Kansas	54
4. Indiana	50
5. Minnesota	43
6. Virginia	40
7. Maryland	39
8. Arizona	35
9. Utah	31
10. Oregon	26

¹For states with a foreign-born population of at least 50,000 in 1995. Source: Urban Institute

RESTORING SANITY TO FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

HON. PETER A. DEFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention and submit for the RECORD an opinion piece included in the March 22, 2000, edition of the *Washington Post*. It was written by Doug Bandow, a Senior Fellow at the CATO Institute and former special assistant to President Reagan. The article makes a persuasive case for reducing the Pentagon budget and deflates the over-heated rhetoric of my colleagues about the need for over \$300 billion in military spending. As Mr. Bandow writes, "To suggest that America is weak, let alone as weak as before Pearl Harbor, is nonsense."

Fortunately, there is an alternative. The Congressional Progressive Caucus budget proposal I offered makes sensible, realistic reductions in the Pentagon budget in order to more adequately fund education, health care, housing, veterans, nutrition and social service programs. Budgets are about priorities. Unfortunately, as this opinion piece from a former Reagan Administration official makes clear, our current budget priorities are "nonsense."

[From the *Washington Post*, Mar. 22, 2000]

SCALING DOWN IN A SAFER WORLD

(By Doug Bandow)

In political debates, America is often portrayed as a beleaguered isle of freedom in a world threatened with a new Dark Ages. Yet the truth is that the United States is safer today than it has been at any time in the past half-century. It's time for Washington to cut military outlays sharply.

While Al Gore and Bill Bradley were sparring over health care in the primary campaigns, the leading Republican candidates pushed to "strengthen" the military. For instance, Texas Gov. George W. Bush complains that "not since the years before Pearl Harbor has our investment in national defense been so low as a percentage of GNP." Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) sounded like an echo when he warned that "the last time we spent so little on defense was 1940—the year before Pearl Harbor."

Even more apocalyptic is conservative radio personality Rush Limbaugh, who